
SFY 2012 Regional Funding Plan

Coconino
Regional Partnership Council

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First Things First State Board
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FIRST THINGS FIRST

**COCONINO REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
FUNDING PLAN SFY 2012
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

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Section I

Regional Allocation Summary

The following chart shows the total available funds to the Regional Partnership Council, by funding sources.

Allocations and Funding Sources	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012
Population Based Allocation	\$1,580,941.00	\$1,090,294.00	\$1,089,083.00
Discretionary Allocation	\$908,332.00	\$652,655.00	\$683,234.00
Other (FTF fund balance addition)		\$239,031.01	\$248,218.60
Additional Income (other than FTF tobacco tax)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carry Forward from Previous Year		\$1,059,244.49	\$1,041,739.87
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$2,489,273.00	\$3,041,224.50	\$3,062,275.47

Section II Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012

For 2012 planning, Regional Partnership Councils are asked to review the strategies from years prior while they consider direction for SFY 2012. At their September 2010 meeting, the First Things First Board adopted priorities as were recommended by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force. Following is the list of five priorities for First Things First action within the next one to three years. These are the roles for which FTF will establish measurable benchmarks and devote resources in order to achieve results for Arizona's young children and their families. These priorities are services which could be funded at both state and regional levels. Throughout this 2012 Regional Funding Plan, there are references to these new priorities. They are:

Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.

Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

Building Public Awareness and Support - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

Professional Development System - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services - Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

In addition, the Task Force recommended that FTF take a leadership role in three priorities that focus on program and process development at the state level. These are:

Early Childhood System Funding – Secure, coordinate, and advocate for resources required to develop and sustain the early childhood system. [This does not mean that FTF would be the sole funder of the early childhood system, but would take an active role in helping to increase and coordinate available resources.]

Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation - Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the educational system.

Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments. [This is integral to improving the quality of early care and education settings.]

Section II A Progress with SFY 2010 and 2011 Funding Plans And SFY 2012 Planning

The table below provides a summary of the Coconino Regional Partnership Council's prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as information on progress in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011.

PRIORITY NEED: There is a lack of high quality, affordable child care (regulated and unregulated).						
DESCRIPTION: There is a need to improve quality child care throughout the region by implementing strategies that focus on improving the quality of and access to licensed and regulated centers and homes and unlicensed/unregulated centers and homes by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support and guidance to all child care providers, whether or not they are licensed and regulated • Increasing the educational level and wage compensation of child care teachers • Improving child care teacher retention in centers and homes by offering incentives • Improving access to quality child care by providing child care scholarships to families • Improving skills and support for early care and education home providers, with an emphasis on family, friend, and neighbor caregivers <p>According to the 2010 Coconino Needs and Assets Report, there is a strong need for more quality, affordable child care services in the Coconino Region. There were approximately 10,800 children birth to age 5, living in the Coconino Region in 2009. The number of children being cared for in homes is unknown. However, national estimates suggest that as many as 60 percent of children (6480 children in the Coconino Region) need child care due to parent's employment, and of these, as many as 50 percent of children ages 5 and under are cared for in home-based settings. In the Coconino Region, this would suggest that approximately 3,240 children are cared for in home-based settings. We know that there are many family, friend, and neighbor care providers who are not licensed and that many families cannot access high quality child care due to the cost.</p> <p>The strategies developed by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council to address the many needs in this area work together to expand the continuum of early care and education services for young children across the Coconino Region.</p>						
Strategy: Quality First (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Quality First <i>This strategy ensures that by participating in Quality First, licensed child care centers and certified child care homes become safer, more engaging learning environments for young children. Quality First components include: coaching and assessment; TEACH educational scholarships for early childhood teachers and Child Care Health Consultation services.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Home based providers	8	8	7	8	8	8
center based providers	8	8	7	8	8	11
Participating scholars	20	4	3	20	20	30
Home based served by a CCHC	8	8	7	8	8	8
Center based providers served by a CCHC	8	8	7	8	8	11

Strategy: Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Professional REWARD\$ <i>This strategy provides financial incentives to early care and education professionals based on their educational attainment level who are working with young children at child care centers and homes.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Incentive awards distributed	36	36	15	29	29	29
Strategy: Child Care Scholarships (A)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Access and Affordability Child Care Scholarships and Quality Improvement Grants. <i>This strategy works toward building capacity and affordability of child care in the Coconino Region through child care scholarships and small quality improvement grants for children birth to five in child care centers and homes. Early care and education scholarships improve access to and affordability of high quality early care and education for low-income families with young children. They provide continuity of care for families who might otherwise be unable to pay for quality care so that child caregiver relationships are not disrupted. Child Care Scholarships are considered an ongoing commitment to help families afford higher levels of quality care and to support the achievement and maintenance of quality improvements. Ongoing outreach and support is provided to participating providers. Small financial incentives (up to \$2,500) are also provided, along with one-on-one support, to assist child care centers and homes in capacity building, improving health and safety, and obtaining literacy building materials/equipment. Preference is given to centers and homes that have never received financial incentives. This strategy supports both centers and homes participating in Quality First (QF) and centers and homes that qualify for participation in QF. For the QF centers and homes, there is no duplication in the types of quality improvements that have been made as a result of this program, due to the on-going communication between program staff and the QF Coaches to assure that both programs support appropriate quality improvements.</i> <i>FY2012 will be the third and final year for this strategy. QF will expand in the Coconino Region and QF scholarships will continue.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Children receiving scholarships	14	15	21	14	14	14
Strategy: Child Care Scholarships (B) (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Quality First Scholarships <i>This strategy will focus on providing much needed child care scholarships to families with children in Quality First centers and homes throughout the Coconino Region. The Coconino Regional Partnership Council funded child care scholarships early in FY2010 to extend the emergency funded child care scholarships and then decided halfway through FY2011 to fund scholarships for the second half of FY2011. The Regional Council is committed to continuing the QF scholarships in FY2012 and FY2013.</i>						

Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Children receiving scholarships	N/A*	N/A*	238	60	60	60
* Service units were not determined.						
Strategy: Family, Friend and Neighbor Care						
Regional Title and/or short description: Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (Kith and Kin)						
This strategy will increase and improve skills and support for early care and education home providers, with an emphasis on family, friend, and neighbor caregivers. This strategy will expand the continuum of quality early child care in the Coconino Region by focusing efforts on improving unlicensed/unregulated early care providers, which until now has not been a focus of the Coconino Regional Partnership Council. This is a new strategy in the Coconino Region for FY2012. A strategy worksheet is attached in Appendix A.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Family, friend and neighbor early care and education providers served	Not a regional strategy in 2010			Not a regional strategy in 2011		80
Summary of Progress and Challenges						
Rationale for Changes to SFY12						
Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success						
There has been much success in improving the quality and accessibility of child care in the region through the Quality First strategy and the Child Care Scholarships (A) strategy. Quality First (QF) sites are actively participating in and benefiting from the Quality First program and have made significant improvements to quality through coaching, support and improvement grants, child care health consultation and TEACH scholarships for child care providers. There are 14 regional QF sites in Flagstaff, Page, Parks, Williams, Grand Canyon, Winslow, Havasupai and Kykotsmobi. Child care scholarships benefited the families of 259 children* in FY2010 and will benefit at least 72 families in FY2012.						
*Most of these scholarships were funded for part of the year in FY2010 as part of the allocation of emergency response funds to the Regions.						
2. Strategy Challenges						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Professional REWARD\$ began late in FY2010 so the provision of incentives to early child care professionals was limited in FY2010. Incentives were distributed to 15 early childhood professionals.TEACH scholarships were targeted to serve 20 early care and education teachers in FY2010, however only 3 scholarships were awarded. In our large regional area, effective recruitment for this program has been difficult. The TEACH Program Specialist was based in Tempe but as of July, 2010, there is a specialist based in Flagstaff and as a result, recruitment and enrollment in the program is increasing. In addition, the financial waivers that are now in place allow more participation in the program and the increase in qualifying wage level (up to \$20/hour) has allowed more teachers to participate in the program.						

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

- The Family, Friend and Neighbor Care strategy is new for FY2012.
- For Quality First, three new Quality First centers will be added in FY2012.

4. First Things First Priorities

These five strategies fit under the FTF priorities of Quality, Access and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and the Education and Professional Development System. The strategies align closely with these priorities, except for the Family, Friend and Neighbor Care strategy, which focuses on unlicensed and unregulated early care providers. While the Coconino Regional Partnership Council highly values improving child care quality in licensed and regulated sites and has focused four strategies on licensed and regulated care, the Regional Council also values improving the quality of early care providers who may not ever become regulated and licensed. In order to address the full spectrum of child care in the Coconino Region, the Regional Council is adding the Family, Friend and Neighbor care strategy which will provide support and training to unlicensed child care providers. The Needs and Assets project identified many unlicensed and unregulated family, friend and neighbor child care providers in the region. This new strategy will reach many of those child care providers. The Regional Council has also added regional funding to the Child Care Demand and Capacity Study for the Coconino Region in order to better understand what child care currently looks like in the region and how to move the early childhood child care system toward higher quality care and education for young children.

PRIORITY NEED: There is a lack of parent education about early childhood.

DESCRIPTION: Many families in the Coconino Region lack the support and guidance they need as parents in order to prepare their children for success in school due to risk factors such as:

- Language barriers
- The family is living in poverty
- Parents have limited or no post-secondary education
- Children have developmental health factors that put them at risk
- Parents have drug/alcohol issues
- The family has limited access to quality child care/preschool experiences

Home visitation programs are a long-standing, proven prevention strategy used to improve the health and well-being of families, particularly those who are at risk. Early investments in home visiting programs have been shown to reduce costs and aid in children's optimal development. Home visitation programs provide family support to improve the health and safety of young children and improve early language and literacy.

Strategy: Home Visitation (A)

Regional Title and/or short description: Family Support Home Visitation

These family support home visiting programs provide intensive in home parenting education and support services to high risk prenatal families and families with young children in the Flagstaff and Winslow areas.

Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families receiving home visiting services	N/A*	72	88	80	80	80

* Service units were not determined.

Strategy: Home Visitation (B)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Havasupai Home Visitation Program This program will provide in home and community family support services. The Havasupai Tribe will work in partnership with Save the Children to implement the program with an emphasis on early literacy to prenatal families and families with young children.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families receiving home visiting services	Not a regional strategy in FY2010			40	*	40
*Efforts are underway to finalize the government to government agreement with the Havasupai Tribe.						
Strategy: Home Visitation (C) (This strategy has not yet been defined nor approved by the State Board)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Kaibab Paiute Family Support Program This program has not yet been defined by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council. This strategy will be defined once the Kaibab Paiute Assessment is completed.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families receiving home visiting services	Not a regional strategy in FY2010			Not a regional strategy in FY2011		To be determined upon strategy design
Strategy: Community Based Early Literacy (This strategy has not yet been defined nor approved by the State Board)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Implementation This strategy has not yet been defined by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council. This strategy will be defined once the Early Childhood Education Study (Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Assessment) is completed.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
TBD	Not a Regional Strategy in FY2010			Not a Regional Strategy in FY2011		TBD

Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p>By the end of FY2010, Home Visitation strategy (A), which provides home visiting services in Flagstaff and Winslow, served almost 90 families, indicating success in reaching high risk families. Both of the home visiting service providers have long track records of providing successful, intensive family support to high risk families.</p> <p>The other three family support strategies have not yet been implemented. The plan for these three tribal strategies is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Havasupai Home Visitation Strategy (Home Visitation B) will begin in FY2011. This strategy is based on the recommendations of the Havasupai Assessment which was completed in FY2010. Save the Children will administer the program as a sub-contractee of the Havasupai Tribe. The Havasupai Home Visitation strategy has been approved by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council and will go to the FTF State Board for approval in January, 2011. Negotiations are under way to complete the government to government agreement with the Havasupai Tribe. It is expected that an agreement will be reached and approved by the Tribe early in 2011. This process has been successful in terms of working with the Havasupai Tribe in developing a home visiting program that will meet the needs of their community.• The Kaibab Paiute Family Support Strategy (Home Visitation C) will be designed and implemented upon completion of the Kaibab Paiute Home Visiting Study. The government to government agreement for the home visiting study has been signed and the home visiting study will be completed in FY2011. The Kaibab Paiute Family Support Program will begin in FY2012 and will be based on the recommendations of the home visiting study.• For the Community Based Early Literacy strategy (Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Implementation), FTF is continuing to work with the Hopi Tribe to reach an agreement regarding the Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Assessment (ECE study), which must be completed prior to implementation of this strategy. It is expected that an agreement will be reached and Tribal Council approval obtained early in 2011. Once approval is reached, the assessment will take approximately six months to complete.
<p>2. Strategy Challenges</p> <p>For the Home Visitation strategies, there were some challenges initially in reaching the targeted numbers of families and with retaining families in both home visiting programs. Both programs have improved in enrolling qualified families over time and by the end of FY2010, both programs showed good retention and good enrollment numbers for their programs.</p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p>The Home Visitation - Kaibab Paiute Family Support Program and the Community Based Early Literacy (Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Implementation) strategies will be designed and implemented.</p>
<p>4. First Things First Priorities</p> <p>These four strategies work toward improving the FTF priority of Supports and Services for Families in the Coconino Region. With home visitation programs either already implemented or soon to be implemented in four of the six hubs* (Winslow, Havasupai, Southern and Northern), these programs impact families across the region by providing extensive in home support and education to families. The Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Implementation strategy will support early literacy in the Hopi hub through this family support strategy.</p> <p>*The Coconino Regional Partnership Council has defined six geographic areas in the Coconino Region as hubs, consisting of; the Northern hub (Fredonia and Page), the Grand Canyon hub (Grand Canyon and</p>

Tusayan), the Hopi hub, the Havasupai hub, the Southern hub (Flagstaff, Williams, Parks, Munds Park, and Doney Park) and the Winslow hub. The hubs are defined by population area, geographic location and school districts.

PRIORITY NEED: There is a lack of community awareness about early childhood.

DESCRIPTION: The Coconino Regional Partnership Council believes communication outreach efforts are needed to improve community knowledge of early childhood health, development and education issues across the Coconino Region. Regional and Statewide media, regional outreach and awareness efforts and activities are all effective mechanisms in raising awareness about the importance of early childhood among parents and community members. These efforts will help to build support for further investments in early childhood programs and services across the region.

Strategy: Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)

Regional Title and/or short description: Community Outreach

This strategy focuses on building awareness, knowledge and action across the Coconino Region regarding early childhood through community outreach efforts such as:

- *Presentations to local organizations*
- *Setting up outreach booths at community events that focus on young children*
- *Organizing and conducting early childhood focused community meetings*
- *Gathering and sharing stories related to the impact of FTF strategies/programs*
- *Recruiting and retaining champions for early childhood education and health*

Strategy: Community Awareness (Statewide) (FTF Directed)

Regional Title and/or short description: Community Awareness

This strategy focuses on building awareness, knowledge and action across the Coconino Region regarding early childhood by participating in community events and distributing educational materials such as BornLearning materials and children's books to families with young children. Examples of community event participation include the Lights On event in Flagstaff and the Child Find event in Havasupai.

Strategy: Media (Statewide) (FTF Directed)

Regional Title and/or short description: Media

This strategy focuses on building awareness, knowledge and action across the Coconino Region regarding early childhood through bi-yearly FTF approved media buys including the following:

- *Newspaper display ads*
- *Online ads*
- *Radio spots*
- *Television spots*
- *Billboards*
- *Grocery store ads*

<p align="center">Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction</p>
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p>The Community Outreach, Awareness and Media strategies are beginning to show some successes across the Region as community members begin to learn about First Things First, the impact our programs are having on early childhood and the importance of early childhood. So far, outreach efforts have recruited 41 early childhood champions in the Coconino Region.</p>
<p>2. Strategy Challenges</p> <p>For the Media strategy, one challenge was the delay in approval of the FTF communications plan. Once approved, we moved quickly to determine appropriate media buys and then began running those media efforts across the region.</p> <p>For the Community Outreach strategy, since the Coconino Regional Partnership Council approved a half-time community outreach position, the time constraints have posed some challenges for that work due to the large size of the Coconino Region.</p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p>The media allotment change in FY2012 is due to the Coconino Regional Partnership Council's decision to follow the FTF Communications Department's recommended allotment for media buys in FY2012.</p>
<p>4. First Things First Priorities</p> <p>These Outreach and Awareness strategies fit under the FTF priority of Building Public Awareness and Support. Community outreach, awareness and education efforts are now occurring with service providers, families, key stakeholders, and tribal partners across the region.</p>
<p>PRIORITY NEED: There is a lack of understanding regarding the care of young children, the quality of their care, and how much support child care providers are receiving.</p>
<p>DESCRIPTION: The Coconino Regional Partnership Council wishes to develop better understanding of early child care capacity and demand across the Coconino Region. Additional information is needed regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of care that is available to families • The barriers that families face in finding quality child care • The level of information families currently have to make informed decisions regarding quality child care • Understanding how many families are utilizing family, friend and neighbor care (unregulated and unlicensed) • Understanding regional child care capacity (licensed/regulated, unlicensed/unregulated and child care centers/homes) and demand issues
<p>Strategy: Child Care Study Implementation (This strategy has not yet been defined nor approved by the State Board)</p>
<p>Regional Title and/or short description: Child Care Study Implementation</p> <p><i>This strategy has not yet been defined by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council. Once the Child Care Capacity and Demand study is completed, the Regional Council plans to implement a strategy that will address the Child Care Study recommendations related to child care capacity building in the Coconino Region.</i></p>

Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
TBD	Not a regional strategy in FY2010			Not a regional strategy in FY2010		To be determined upon strategy design
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success The Child Care Demand and Capacity Study is now underway. Once completed in FY2012, the Child Care Study Implementation strategy will be defined.						
2. Strategy Challenges None						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 The Child Care Study Implementation strategy will be defined upon completion of the study and then submitted to First Things First State Board for approval.						
4. First Things First Priorities This strategy fits under the FTF priority of Quality, Access and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education and Supports and Services to Families. It is expected that the Child Care Study implementation strategy will expand efforts to improve quality, access and affordability of early care and education and supports and services to families across the region in FY2012.						
PRIORITY NEED: There is a lack of service coordination and collaboration for high-quality early childhood development and health programs and services.						
DESCRIPTION: The Coconino Regional Partnership Council wishes to expand local coordination and collaboration efforts to improve service delivery across the Coconino Region. According to the 2010 Coconino Needs and Assets Report summary, “ We know from our current and previous research that children and their families in the Coconino Region have the need for more quality, affordable child care services, supports to increase school readiness and school performance, additional services for children with disabilities, more health care providers, especially dental care providers, and services and community resources that are linguistically and culturally appropriate and available at times and locations that are convenient for families”. Additionally, the Needs and Assets Report data shows that there are noticeable differences between all six of the community hubs. The Southern hub, which incorporates the city of Flagstaff, has the majority of services for children and families within the region, and children in this community hub are generally doing better than children living in the other hubs. On the contrary, the Hopi and Grand Canyon hubs do not have easy access to services, thus children in these areas are struggling more. Although data from the Havasupai Tribe was not included in the 2010 Needs and Assets Report, we know that families living in the remote village of Supai have difficulty accessing services for children as well. In light of these varied challenges in the Coconino Region, targeted service coordination and expanded regional collaboration efforts are needed to help improve service delivery for all young children and their families throughout the Coconino Region.						

Strategy: Service Coordination (FTF Directed)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Coordination and Collaboration						
This strategy focuses on developing or expanding local collaboration efforts to improve service delivery for children’s health, development, and child care services across the Coconino Region by convening partners and providing leadership with early childhood agencies and families, public officials, policy makers, and the public.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
TBD	Service units were not determined			Service units were not determined		TBD
Summary of Progress and Challenges						
Rationale for Changes to SFY12						
Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success						
Service Coordination is already occurring informally throughout the region by FTF regional staff, Coconino Regional Partnership Council members and early childhood service providers/grantees. This coordination and collaboration work will continue formally through implementation of the Service Coordination strategy, beginning in FY2011.The Coconino Regional Partnership Council recently approved hiring a dedicated staff person which will enable this work to begin early in 2011.						
2. Strategy Challenges						
The Service Coordination strategy has not yet moved forward. The Coconino Regional Partnership Council has held several discussions and work sessions regarding articulation of the desired strategy outcomes and the mechanism for moving this forward, considering the Request For Grant Application process, a government to government agreement process, or by hiring an FTF staff person to carry out the work of this strategy. There have also been challenges in determining how to implement this strategy across such a vast and diverse region.						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012						
None						
4. First Things First Priorities						
The Service Coordination strategy fits under the statewide priority of Building Public Awareness and Support. Through convening of partners, providing leadership, and providing funding, public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and education will improve across the Coconino Region.						
PRIORITY NEED: Children are not fully prepared for Kindergarten						
DESCRIPTION: The Coconino Regional Partnership Council has defined a need to improve children’s readiness for kindergarten. The 2010 Needs and Assets Report indicated that most children in the region were not ready for kindergarten. In Parks and the Grand Canyon school districts, only 6% to 9% of children were at kindergarten grade level and more than half (54% to 57%) of the children entering kindergarten needed substantial interventions. In Flagstaff and Winslow School Districts, 41% were at grade level and between 23% and 26% needed substantial interventions.						

Strategy: Expansion Pre K and Head Start						
Regional Title and/or short description: Kindergarten Transition This strategy will fund high quality, targeted school readiness pre-kindergarten summer programs designed to help at risk children to develop the social-emotional, academic and literacy skills needed to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Children who benefit the most from these programs are those who have limited or no preschool experience and other risk factors. <i>This is a new strategy in the Coconino Region for FY2012. A strategy worksheet is attached in Appendix A.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Public school district Pre-K sites receiving support	Not a Regional Strategy in FY2010			Not a Regional Strategy in FY2011		4
Private/public community partner Pre-k sites receiving support						4
FTF-funded Pre-K students						300
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success There is no success to report. This strategy is new for FY2012.						
2. Strategy Challenges None						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 This is a new strategy for SFY 2012.						
4. First Things First Priorities This strategy fits under the Quality, Access and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education FTF priority, which affirms the Coconino Regional Partnership Council’s commitment to making extensive regional improvements in this area.						

PRIORITY NEED: There is a lack of good oral health.						
DESCRIPTION: According to the 2010 Needs and Assets Report, there is a shortage of dentists in the Coconino Region and many children experienced untreated tooth decay. This strategy utilizes evidence-based approaches to deliver oral health outreach and education, dental screenings, fluoride varnishes and referrals to dentists in order to improve access to quality oral health care across the Coconino Region.						
Strategy: Oral Health						
Regional Title and/or short description Oral Health Outreach						
<i>This strategy improves access to oral health outreach services to families of young children across the Coconino Region, including oral health education, screenings, fluoride varnishes and referrals to dentists.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Participants receiving oral health screening	N/A*	N/A*	206	400	400	400
Adults participating in oral health trainings	N/A*	N/A*	964	1000	1000	1000
Oral or other health professionals participating in trainings	N/A*	N/A*	0	16	16	16
Fluoride varnishes provided	N/A*	N/A*	118	300	300	300
* Target Service numbers were initially defined as 1800; however that number was not split into service units until FY2011.						
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success During the first year, improvements were made in service delivery, which helped to reach the target service number, then defined as 1800. Improvements included determining appropriate outreach activities and events which resulted in reaching more families and children in the Region. Oral health outreach and education services were provided to children and families throughout the Coconino Region, including Page, Fredonia, Havasupai, Williams, Grand Canyon, Flagstaff and Winslow.						
2. Strategy Challenges There have been challenges with the oral health outreach program related to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding enough events/activities to reach families with young children Finding dental hygienists who are available to provide fluoride screenings at events Obtaining necessary permissions to provide outreach services in some Tribal communities 						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 None						
4. First Things First Priorities This strategy, which fits under Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services, is the Coconino Regional Partnership Council's approach to addressing the extensive need for improvements in oral health education and services across the region.						

PRIORITY NEED: There is a lack of therapists to provide services to children with special needs.						
DESCRIPTION: Throughout Arizona, there is a critical shortage of therapists with the necessary education and experience to appropriately address the needs of young children, during a time when effective intervention can have the greatest impact. This shortage is evident in the Coconino Region. Many families in the region have to travel to Flagstaff to receive services, or wait for extended periods of time before a contracted specialist, including physical and occupational therapists, speech/language therapists and mental health therapists (certified to work with children birth to five), are available to come to their communities.						
Strategy: Workforce Recruitment – Stipend and Loan forgiveness (Multi-Region)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Recruitment of Early Intervention Professionals <i>This strategy will provide an incentive through stipends and/or loan repayment for early intervention therapists to live and work in the communities of the Coconino Region, specifically serving children birth to five. Speech and Language Pathologists, Psychologists, Physical and Occupational Therapists and Mental Health Specialists are eligible for this incentive.</i> <i>This is a new strategy in the Coconino Region for FY2012. A strategy worksheet is attached in Appendix A.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Therapists receiving loan forgiveness	Not a Regional Strategy in FY2010			Not a Regional Strategy in FY2011		2
Therapists receiving stipends	Not a Regional Strategy in FY2010			Not a Regional Strategy in FY2011		2
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success None at this time. The strategy that will address this need has not yet been implemented.						
2. Strategy Challenges None						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 None						
4. First Things First Priorities This strategy will be the second strategy to address the FTF priority area of Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services. Access to early intervention services in hub communities where services are not readily available will help improve health care coverage and services. The Coconino Regional Partnership Council now recognizes (after reviewing the 2010 Needs and Assets data) the significant needs in this area in some hub communities.						

Strategy: Regional Needs and Assets
Short Description: <i>The Coconino Regional Partnership Council identified a need for additional information at the community hub level, defined as; the Northern hub (Fredonia and Page), the Grand Canyon hub (Grand Canyon and Tusayan), the Hopi hub, the Havasupai hub, the Southern hub (Flagstaff, Williams, Parks, Munds Park, Doney Park) and the Winslow hub, and to be able to view that information in a hub summary. The Regional Council supported an effort to obtain more specific hub level information by allotting additional funds to this strategy in FY2010. In addition, the Regional Council funded family and provider surveys conducted across the region by the needs and assets vendor, in order to gather extensive information about families of young children.</i>
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
1. Strategy Success The 2010 Needs and Assets project was very successful in terms of the information that was gathered and summarized in the report. The information gathered from the parent and provider surveys provided a snapshot of the needs and assets throughout the region and the community hub profiles provided information at the hub level.
2. Strategy Challenges The main challenge was not being able to include more current data. The next needs and assets project will be more accurate due to the availability of the 2010 census data.
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 The Needs and Assets project and report will likely be conducted in the same manner as the 2010 project. There are no major changes to the process.
FY2010/2011 Prioritized Needs or Strategies <u>Not</u> Included in FY2012 Planning
PRIORITIZED NEED: Lack of understanding regarding how young children are being cared for, the quality of their care and how much support child care providers are receiving.
DESCRIPTION: The Coconino Regional Partnership Council wishes to develop better understanding of early child care, health, and education services and expand local collaboration efforts across the region.
Strategy: Child Care Study
Regional Title and/or short description: Child Care Capacity and Demand Study. Funding for this study was allotted in FY2010. This study will be completed in FY2012.
PRIORITIZED NEED: Children are not fully prepared for Kindergarten.
DESCRIPTION: The Coconino Region Partnership Council has defined a need to improve children's readiness for kindergarten.
Strategy: ECE Study
Regional Title and/or short description: Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Assessment This strategy will conduct a comprehensive Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Assessment. This assessment is planned to begin in early 2011 and will likely take 6 months. Funding for this assessment was allotted in FY2011.

PRIORITIZED NEED: There is a lack of parent education and awareness about early childhood.
DESCRIPTION: Many families in the Coconino Region lack the support and guidance they need as parents in order to prepare their children for success in school due to high risk factors.
Strategy: Home Visiting Study
Regional Title and/or short description: Kaibab Paiute Family Support Assessment. Funding for this assessment was allotted in FY2011. The assessment will be completed in FY2011.
<p align="center">Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction</p>
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p>Two of the three strategies above are assessments that are planned for completion in FY2011. The third strategy is the Child Care Demand and Capacity Study, which is planned for continuation and completion in FY2012.</p>
<p>2. Strategy Challenges</p> <p>Reaching an agreement regarding the proposal for the Child Care Demand and Capacity Study took several months and the study did not begin as soon as the Regional Partnership Council would have liked, however it is now under way.</p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p>The Child Care Study Implementation strategy, the Kaibab Paiute Home Visitation Implementation strategy and the Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model Implementation strategy will all be developed based on the recommendations of the two tribal assessments and the child care study in FY2012.</p>
<p>4. First Things First Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Care Demand and Capacity Study aligns with the FTF priority of Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings. This study will inform the Coconino Regional Partnership Council about child care across the region and, once completed, will help to define the Child Care Implementation strategy. • The Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Assessment and the Kaibab Paiute Home Visiting Study both align with the FTF priority of Supports and Services for Families. The assessment and the study will determine what family support needs exist in the Kaibab Paiute tribal area and the Hopi tribal area and then once completed, will help define those implementation strategies.

COCONINO REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Regional Funding Plan SFY 2012

Section II B

Budget: Regional Partnership Council Strategy Allotments (01-05-2011)

Coconino Regional Partnership Council Operational Plan Funding Summary					2012 Proposed Allotments
	2010		2011		2012
FY Allocation	\$2,489,273.00		\$1,981,980.01		\$2,020,535.60
Carry Forward From Previous Year	na		\$1,059,244.49		\$1,041,739.87
Total Funds Available	\$2,489,273.00		\$3,041,224.50		\$3,062,275.47
Strategies	Allotted	Expended	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed
Quality First (Statewide)	323,067.00	172,204.82	\$407,177.00	\$403,583.00	\$369,500.00
Child Care Health Consultation (Statewide)	53,333.00	32,403.34	\$53,333.00	\$53,333.00	\$52,300.00
TEACH Scholarships (Statewide)	63,600.00	9,751.82	\$63,600.00	\$63,600.00	\$76,000.00
Child Care Scholarships (Statewide/Regional)	688,230.00	608,206.72	\$346,285.00	\$346,285.00	\$531,170.00
Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$121,824.00
Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)	71,441.00	9,600.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
Home Visitation	363,562.00	346,965.59	\$413,212.63	\$338,213.00	\$407,413.24
Community Awareness (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	0.00	0.00	\$10,000.00	\$942.00	\$10,000.00
Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	0.00	0.00	\$50,000.00	\$46,200.00	\$50,000.00
Media (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	20,000.00	19,391.87	\$90,000.00	\$89,880.00	\$72,730.00
Service Coordination (FTF Directed)	70,000.00	0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
Kindergarten Transition	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$198,000.00
Oral Health	125,000.00	108,853.70	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Workforce Recruitment - Stipends and Loan Forgiveness (Multi-Regional)	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140,000.00
Needs and Assets	45,000.00	33,750.00	\$13,275.00	\$13,275.00	\$45,000.00
Evaluation FY2012	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95,601.97
Evaluation	0.00	0.00	\$79,837.00	\$79,837.00	\$0.00
Arizona Health Survey	0.00	0.00	\$3,143.00	\$3,143.00	\$0.00
Children's Budget	0.00	0.00	\$753.00	\$753.00	\$0.00
Parent Kits - Study	0.00	0.00	\$3,867.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Child Care Study	0.00	0.00	\$88,002.00	\$88,002.00	\$0.00
ECE Study	0.00	0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Food Insecurity	47,500.00	46,877.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Home Visiting Study	65,000.00	42,023.65	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$1,935,733.00	\$1,430,028.51	\$1,999,484.63	\$1,747,046.00	\$2,539,539.21
Carry Forward to Following Year		\$1,059,244.49	\$1,041,739.87		\$522,736.26

Section II C Information about changes in funding level for strategies from 2011 to 2012

Strategy Name	Previous Funding Amount (SFY 2011)	New Funding Amount (SFY 2012)	Rationale for Change in Funding
ECE Study (Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Assessment)	\$150,000	\$0	This assessment will be completed in FY2011.
Quality First	\$440,000	\$497,800	3 additional QF centers will be added.
Child Care Study	\$30,000	\$0	This study will be completed in FY2012.
Service Coordination (Coordination and Collaboration)	\$50,000	\$150,000	FY2012 allotment will fund the strategy at a sustainable level for the entire year, rather than the partial year funding level of FY2011.
Family and Community Survey (Kaibab Paiute Assessment)	\$7,000	\$0	This assessment will be completed in FY2012.
Needs and Assets	\$10,000	\$45,000	The Council wants to expend the same amount as they did for the 2010 Needs and Assets project. The \$10,000 was intended to reserve some funds in FY2011 for the FY2012 Needs and Assets project.
Media	\$90,000	\$72,730	The reduction in allotment is due to the revised projected media cost for this region, which was \$90,000 in FY2011 and will be \$72,730 in FY2012.
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$184,885	\$369,770	Since the scholarships allotment was only for 6 months in FY2011, the cost is doubled for FY2012 for the full year at the same annualized funding level.
Home Visitation (Havasupai)	\$75,000	125,000	FY2011 allotment was for a partial year. FY2012 allotment will be for the full year at the same annualized funding level.
Pre-Kindergarten Expansion	\$ 0	\$198,000	This is a new strategy for FY2012.
Family, Friend and Neighbor Care	\$0	\$121,824	This is a new strategy for FY2012.
Workforce Recruitment-Stipends and Loan Forgiveness	\$0	\$140,000	This is a new strategy for FY2012.
Carry Forward	\$1,041,740	\$522,736	The Coconino Regional Council plans to retain carry forward funds for future implementation of 3 strategies based on the outcomes of three studies. They are: Child Care implementation (\$67,500), Kaibab Paiute Family Support (\$55,000) and Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Model (\$150,000) for a total of \$272,500. The balance (\$250,236) will be held to address unmet needs and expand scope and reach in the region.

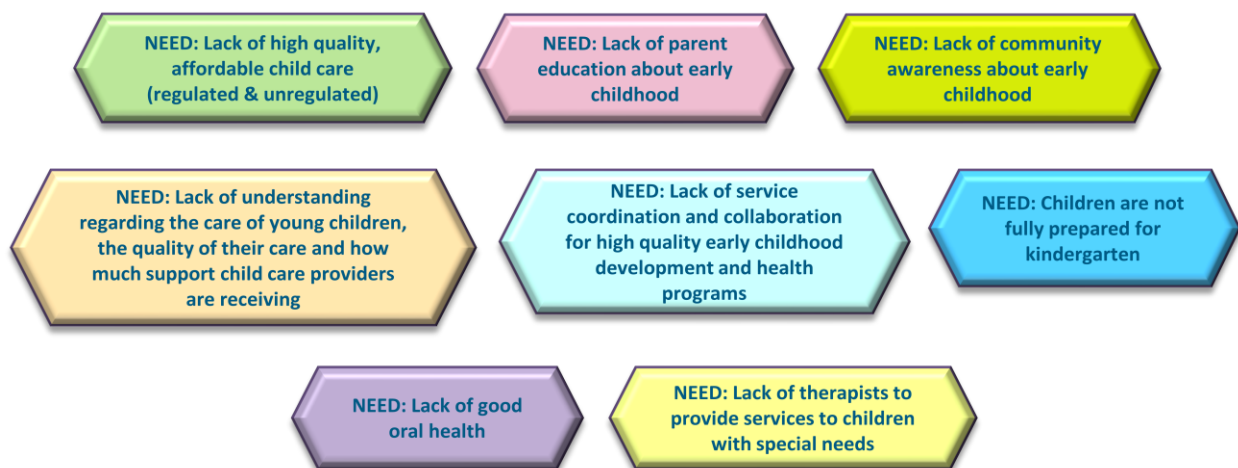
Section III

System Building Impact

Within the Coconino Region, quality early childhood services and education are provided to varying degrees. The Southern hub, for example, has more early childhood supports and services than any of the other five community hub areas. It has been challenging for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council to make informed decisions that will impact the most children possible throughout this rural region. For this current funding planning process, the Regional Council has thoroughly reviewed all of the regional strategies including successes and challenges, and the information and data in the 2008 and the 2010 Needs and Assets Reports. In addition, the Regional Council has heard from service providers across the Region. This thoughtful process has helped the Regional Council to define the needs that young children and their families have that are unique to this region in order to make informed and thoughtful decisions for the FY2012 funding plan. Additional information will be obtained from the completion of the Child Care Capacity and Demand study, the Kaibab Paiute Family Survey and the Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Assessment, further informing the Regional Council about the direction for implementing family support, early literacy and child care capacity and/or accessibility programs.

The Coconino Regional Partnership Council has defined 8 regional needs but decided not to prioritize the needs for this region, believing that all 8 regional needs are of equal importance. Given those regional needs, all of the current strategies (except for the assessments that will be completed in FY2011), will continue in FY2012 and three new strategies are added to more fully address identified needs.

The Coconino Regional Partnership Council defined the following priority needs:



Some significant findings from the 2010 Needs and Assets project include the following:

General

- There were 10,831 children birth to five living in the Coconino Region in 2009, 64% of whom live in the Southern Hub.
- Median family income of almost all of the community hubs with single parent households did not meet self-sufficiency standards.
- The Southern hub has the majority of services for children and families.

Health

- Additional services for children with disabilities are needed.
- There is a shortage of speech and language pathologists and mental health specialists; nearly all are located in the Southern Hub.
- All hubs except for Flagstaff are classified by the AZ Department of Health Services as Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas.
- Between 15% and 30% of families traveled more than 20 miles to get health care for their child.

Early Care and Education

- Supports to increase school readiness and school performance are a strong need across the region.
- There are 104 licensed, certified or registered child care programs with a combined capacity of about 5,500 children.
- 80% of the capacity is located in the Southern Hub.
- 73% of parent survey respondents indicated that they had someone else care for their child.
- 71% indicated using informal care.

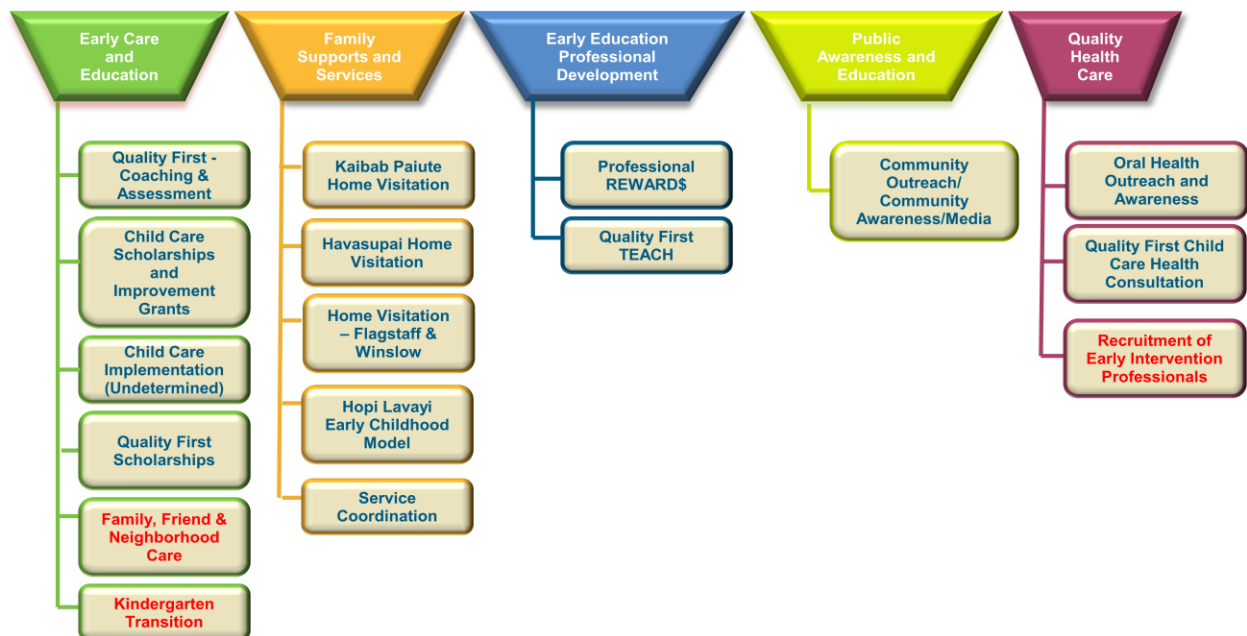
Family Support

- 1800 children had a parent in the county jail or on county probation in 2007 and 22% of those children were under age four.
- The Northern Hub showed the least amount of parents engaged in key activities with their children every week and those parents need more support with positive parenting practices.

The chart below shows the needs prioritized by the Coconino Regional Partnership Council and the strategies that fit under those needs:



Another way to view the strategies is in terms of the goal areas. The following chart illustrates that relationship:



The collective strategies within the goal area of **Early Care and Education** work together to expand the service delivery network for the early care and education of young children across the Coconino Region. The Coconino Regional Partnership Council is diligently working to develop a continuum of services

which will expand access to and capacity of early care and education. In an effort to improve the quality of regulated and licensed child care centers and homes, Quality First and the Access and Affordability strategies are reaching 16 homes and centers, and funded to reach 19 homes and centers in FY2012. Many families in the Region simply cannot afford quality child care. Improved access to quality child care has been provided through the child care scholarship strategies, providing 74 scholarships to families in FY2011 and 74 scholarships to families in FY2012. This multi-faceted service delivery approach to early care and education includes:

- coaching and assessment
- quality improvement grants and small financial incentives to assist child care centers and homes in capacity building, improving health and safety, and obtaining literacy building materials/equipment
- TEACH scholarships for professional development
- child care health consultation to centers and homes
- Professional REWARD\$ financial incentives to early childhood teachers
- child care scholarships

These strategies are improving the quality of and access to centers and homes throughout the Region in a long-term and sustainable way. The Regional Council also recognized, however, that the approaches noted above are not reaching many of the young children in the Region. The majority of young children in the Coconino Region are cared for in settings that are not regulated and licensed. For this reason, the Council has added a strategy for FY2012 to support quality within these legally unregulated settings. The Family, Friend and Neighbor Care strategy will increase and improve skills and support for unlicensed early care and education home providers across the Region.

In addition, the new Kindergarten Transition strategy will serve children who have had limited or no formal preschool experience, by offering summer programs throughout the Region that will better prepare them for kindergarten and improve educational outcomes for at risk children.

By working to develop strategies along this continuum, the Coconino Regional Partnership Council is systematically improving access to quality childcare experiences for the Region's children and families.

The collective strategies within the goal area of **Family Support** build upon each other to expand the service delivery network for children and families in order to improve outcomes for young children, including improved family relationships and improvements in early literacy. While this strategy does not reach the high numbers of families that other strategies reach, these programs affect families with the greatest needs and some of the highest risk families in the region. These programs will reach families in Hopi, Kaibab Paiute and Havasupai tribal lands, all of which are in remote areas in the region, as well as families in Flagstaff and Winslow.

Within the goal area of **Quality Health Care**, the two strategies work together to expand the service delivery network for improving health care for young children across the region, improving knowledge of, and services for, good oral health and providing greater access to early intervention services in the community hubs that currently have limited access to those services.

In terms of enhancing the early childhood infrastructure in the Coconino Region, some work has been accomplished in the area, however further information needs to be gathered in order to gain a more

complete understanding of what currently exists throughout the region. While the 2010 Needs and Assets project provided an unprecedented picture of the region in terms of early childhood, further investigation will provide important information regarding families, key community members, and service providers. In this current fiscal year, some of that knowledge will be obtained for the Coconino Regional Partnership Council to consider and use to implement future strategies that are currently undefined once the following assessments are completed:

- **Child Care Study - Arizona Demand and Capacity for Early Child Care.** This study is in response to the identified need for additional research data related to child care demand regarding parent/caregiver preferences and decision-making as well as the overall child care supply in the Coconino Region as well as information related to unregulated early care and education.
- **Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Assessment.** This assessment has been defined in order to develop regional understanding of early literacy issues among Hopi children birth to five, and subsequently to implement a successful early childhood literacy program on Hopi.
- **Kaibab Paiute Family Survey.** This assessment will be conducted in order to determine how a family support program could address the identified needs of Kaibab Band of Paiute Indian families with young children. The assessment will include recommendations for implementing a comprehensive family support program.

The assessments should be completed in FY2011 and the Child Care Study in FY2012. The Coconino Regional Partnership Council has allotted funds to all three strategies for implementation of an early literacy program on Hopi (\$100,000), a family support program for Kaibab Paiute (\$55,000) and an implementation program based on the results of the child care study (\$67,500). These strategies will be defined and implemented as the assessments are completed.

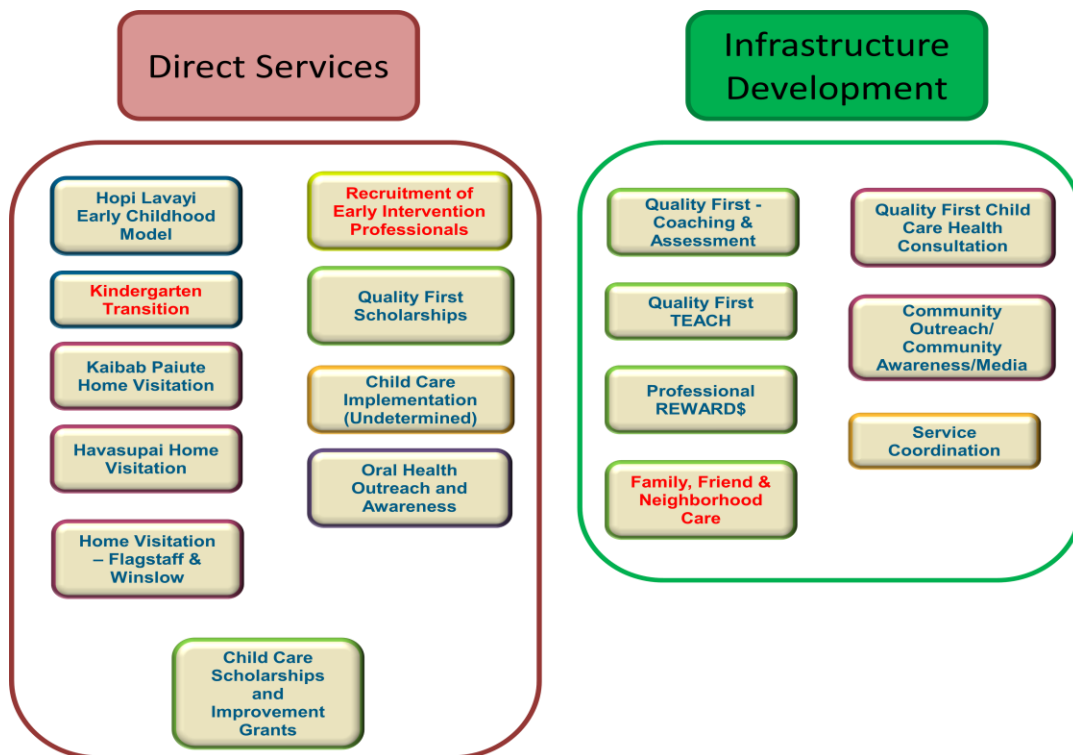
So far, the existing regional early childhood infrastructure has been enhanced across the region by implementation of Quality First, including education awards (TEACH) and financial incentives (REWARD\$) granted to early childhood teachers, improvements in early childhood facilities, and support for teachers from Quality First coaches and child care health consultants. As early childhood information has been disseminated through the media, community presentations and meetings with early childhood partners, awareness about early childhood issues in the region has been expanded. Additionally, the infrastructure will be further enhanced in FY2012 when the new strategy, Family, Friend & Neighbor Care, reaches child care home providers that have never received any kind of support and early education training and when the Community Awareness strategy continues to provide early childhood knowledge to parents and communities across the region.

Many strategy programs have begun providing direct services to families and young children throughout the region, with the following direct impact to families in FY2010:

- More than 75 child care scholarships to area families
- Providing in home family support to more than 90 families (plus an additional 40 families this year in Havasupai)
- Providing oral health outreach and services to more than 900 families
- Families impacted by these direct services reside in Page, Fredonia, Kaibab Paiute tribal area, Havasupai, Flagstaff, Winslow and Williams

Additional direct services will be provided in FY2012, impacting 300 children who participate in the Kindergarten Transition programs, providing improved access for children to direct early intervention services, and by providing family support to approximately 120 children in Hopi and Kaibab Paiute tribal areas.

The chart below illustrates which strategies provide direct services to young children and their families and which strategies help build the regional infrastructure of early childhood across the Coconino Region:



The Coconino Regional Partnership Council strongly supports coordination and collaboration efforts across the region and has developed a Service Coordination strategy in order to engage in significant work to expand coordination and collaboration efforts, specifically related to improved early childhood service delivery across the Coconino Region. The Service Coordination strategy work will likely begin before the end of FY2011. Some concerted coordination and collaboration efforts are currently taking place across the region as evidenced by the following activities:

- Organizing and facilitating FTF grantee meetings
- Organizing and facilitating early childhood professionals and interested community members in an initial outreach and coordination meeting in Fredonia
- Participating in on-going early childhood meetings in Flagstaff (Alliance for Children's Early Success)
- Participating in meetings with individuals, grantees, and child care providers across the region

In addition, the Regional Council understands the importance of cross regional and statewide coordination, with several Regional Council members engaged in those efforts regularly. Coordination and collaboration efforts enhance all early childhood programs and services, whether or not they are FTF funded programs and the positive results of those efforts are now being seen in the Coconino Region.

In addition, the Coconino Regional Partnership Council highly values gathering substantial information across the region related to early child care and education, family support, and early literacy in tribal areas and has funded studies to gather that information. Once completed, the studies will not only educate communities about the importance of early childhood, but will also inform the Regional Council about what is working and what is still needed for regional coordination and collaboration and in order to develop the best possible early childhood system in the Coconino Region.

Appendix

STRATEGY WORKSHEETS

Strategy Name: Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care

Purpose: To increase and improve skills and support for early care and education home providers, with an emphasis on family, friend, and neighbor caregivers.

There were approximately 10,800 children birth to age 5, living in the Coconino Region in 2009. The number of children being cared for in homes is unknown. However, national estimates suggest that as many as 60 percent of children (6480 children in the Coconino Region) need child care due to parent's employment, and of these, as many as 50 percent of children ages 5 and under are cared for in home-based settings. In the Coconino Region, this would suggest that approximately 3,240 children are cared for in home-based settings. While there are licensed home providers, we know that there are many family, friend, and neighbor care providers who are not licensed. This strategy will support and train those unlicensed providers in order to improve the quality of child care they provide.

Child care provided by family, friend, and neighbor caregivers – home-based child care that is for the most part legally exempt from regulation - is of growing concern to parents and policymakers for several reasons. One of the top reasons is that nationally it is the most common type of child care for children under age 5 whose parents work (Maher & Joesch, 2005; Snyder, Dore, & Adelman, 2005). Nearly half of all children spend their days – and sometimes their nights – in these types of settings (Boushey & Wright, 2004). Additionally, in recent years, the question of what kinds of child care programs best prepare children for kindergarten has emerged as a dominant issue in the early care and education public policy agenda. This has been propelled to the forefront due to two main factors – the national focus on children's school achievement and the widespread creation of state-funded prekindergarten programs for 3 and 4 year old children. Growing awareness that so many children are in these unregulated settings and concerns about school readiness, have generated increased interest in efforts to support these care givers to improve the quality of care they provide, thus increasing the school readiness of the children under their care (Research to Policy Connections No. 5, Assessing Initiatives for Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care, March 2007). In the Coconino Region, the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) data shows that many children in the region were not ready to enter kindergarten.

Evidence suggests that training provided to home-based family, friend and neighbor caregivers can result in positive outcomes for children. For example, recent findings from the Association for Supportive Child Care and Valley of the Sun United Way partnership "Kith and Kin" program that provides training and support to family, friend, and neighbor care givers in Arizona, shows that 81 percent made specific changes in the care they provided to children as a result of their involvement in the program. Impact was noted in the following areas: 1) safety in the home environment, particularly fire safety; 2) establishing a daily schedule for the children; 3) encouraging providers to join their local library; 4) setting up a written agreement with parents regarding child care arrangements; and 5) increased knowledge regarding the Child and Adult Food Program. Participants in this program have also identified that their motivation to provide care is not monetary, and consequently, while identifying an interest in becoming a better provider, most are not interested in becoming "regulated" and providing services to other children in the community.

<p>Specific approaches to implement this strategy will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing early language and literacy programs • Utilizing innovative approaches to address the specific training/skill enhancement needs of the family, friend and neighbor care giver population in the Coconino Region • Developing partnerships that expand access to services in non-traditional settings, including homes, public schools, and other “education” settings • Raising public awareness about the importance of improving skills for this provider population. 			
<p>Lead Goal: FTF will improve access to quality early care and education programs and settings. Goal: FTF will coordinate and integrate with existing education and information systems to expand family, friend and neighbor child care providers’ access to high quality, diverse and relevant information and resources to support optimal development in the children for whom they provide child care. Goal: FTF will increase the availability, quality and diversity of relevant resources that support language and literacy development for young children and their families.</p>			
<p>Key Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth to age five. 			
<p>Target Population: The number of unregulated in home providers in the region is unknown. A rough estimate assumes that 60% of children ages birth to 5 in the region (approximately 6,480 children) are in need of out-of-home care and 50% of those children are being cared for in home-based care, or 3,240 children. While there are licensed home providers, we know that there are many family, friend, and neighbor care providers that are not licensed. This strategy will potentially reach 80 of those family, friend and neighbor child care providers, serving between 160 and 300 children across the region.</p>			
Proposed Service Numbers	SFY2012 July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010	SFY2013 July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	SFY2014 July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
	80 Child Care Providers	80 Child Care Providers	80 Child Care Providers
<p>Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of family, friend, and neighbor child care providers receiving quality care and safety training 2. Number of family, friend, and neighbor child care providers receiving training on language and literacy development in young children 			
<p>• How is this strategy building on the service network that currently exists? This strategy seeks to improve the network of family, friend & neighbor caregivers in the region.</p>			
<p>• What are the opportunities for collaboration and alignment? This strategy will begin to add to the regional collaboration efforts by the connections made among the caregivers and other early child care service providers.</p>			
<p>SFY2010 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy</p>			
Population-based Allocation for proposed strategy		\$121,824	

Budget Justification: Using cost estimates from the Kith and Kin model program, the cost will be \$30,456 per 14 week training session. Typically, there are two 14-week sessions per year for a total of \$60,912 per year per area. \$121,824 will cover the cost for the program in two hub communities, serving potentially 80 home providers. In addition to training, participants may also receive safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, cribs, and car seats.

Strategy Name: Expansion Pre K and Head Start (Kindergarten Transition)

Purpose: To prepare high risk pre-kindergarteners for success in school.

The Coconino Regional Partnership Council has defined a need to improve young children's readiness for kindergarten. The 2010 Needs and Assets Report indicates that most children in the region were not ready for kindergarten. In Parks and the Grand Canyon school districts, only 6% to 9% of children were at kindergarten grade level and more than half (54% to 57%) of the children entering kindergarten needed substantial interventions. In Flagstaff and Winslow school districts, 41% were at grade level and between 23% and 26% needed substantial interventions. In addition, the Needs and Assets informal survey results indicate that 71% of respondents use informal child care throughout the region. Since we now know there are many families in the region using family, friend and neighbor care, we know that most of those children do not have any classroom experience prior to entering kindergarten.

In recognition of the extensive needs in the region for quality and affordable early care and education, the Regional Council has allotted considerable funding (1.4 million) for several strategies that support improvements in access to quality child care (Child Care Scholarships), improvements in the quality of child care (Quality First), improved access to pre-kindergarten experiences for children with little or no preschool experience (this strategy) and through improving unlicensed child care (Family, Friend and Neighbor Care).

Research results show that short-term summer kindergarten transition programs that follow a formal curriculum can help prepare 4 and 5 year olds for success in school. The majority of children participating in the First Five Sonoma County Kindergarten Transition Program (KTP) in 2007 showed significant improvements on all six school readiness dimensions after participating in the KTP program. Children entering the KTP program with low baseline scores exhibited particularly high developmental strides at the end of the program. Another summer kindergarten transition program in Coconino County, KinderCamp, shows that 90% of participating students made gains in literacy and social-emotional skills. Those students also performed above the average district scores for all kindergarteners who took the September kindergarten AIMSweb. The AIMSweb assessment, which is used in Arizona, is a formative assessment and basic skills improvement system that uses standardized, individually administered measures to determine early literacy development.

This Kindergarten Transition strategy will fund high quality, targeted school readiness pre-kindergarten summer programs designed to help at risk children to develop the social-emotional, academic and literacy skills needed to succeed in Kindergarten and beyond. Children who benefit the most from these programs are those who have limited or no preschool experience and other risk factors.

In a classroom-based kindergarten transition model program, children attend area elementary schools during the summer before they start kindergarten for approximately 20 days. Kindergarten transition program activities support the following:

- Introducing children to the classroom experience including routines and activities
- Building social and emotional skills that support learning
- Increasing pre-literacy and math skills
- Fostering independent thinking
- Engaging families and involving them in their child's education

<p>Home visits by the program teachers are one component of quality kindergarten transition programs. They provide parents and teachers opportunities to meet and discuss school readiness issues. Teachers address the specific progress of each child, and provide early childhood development information and materials to family members. During those visits, parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a greater knowledge of what their children are learning ○ Learn to reinforce what their child is learning in the program ○ Gain a better understanding of specific learning and developmental needs of their children as perceived by the teacher ○ Share suggestions with teachers based on their own observations and knowledge of their child. 			
<p>Lead Goal: FTF will improve access to quality early care and education programs and settings. Goal: FTF will coordinate and integrate with existing education and information systems to expand families' access to high quality, diverse and relevant information and resources to support their child's optimal development. Goal: FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings.</p>			
<p>Key Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth to age five 			
<p>Target Population (Description of the population to reach): Families with children who have limited or no preschool experience and who are planning to attend kindergarten in the fall in the Coconino Region. Participating children must also have at least one of the following risk factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ language barriers ○ are living in families earning at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level ○ have parents with limited or no post-secondary education ○ have developmental health factors that put them at risk 			
Proposed Service Numbers	SFY2012 July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013	SFY2013 July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	SFY2014 July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015
	300	300	300
<p>Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of FTF-funded pre-k students/proposed service number • Other performance measures will be developed as a standard of practice is finalized for a summer transition to kindergarten strategy 			
<p>How is this strategy building on the service network that currently exists? This strategy will expand the existing public school early education service network and will expand kindergarten transition model programs beyond Flagstaff into other community hubs where none currently exist.</p>			
<p>What are the opportunities for collaboration and alignment? This strategy will build upon and expand the existing network of early childhood education collaboration.</p>			
<p>SFY2010 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy</p>			
Population-based Allocation for proposed strategy		\$198,000	

Budget Justification: Using cost estimates, \$180,000 would pay for approximately 300 children for one year at \$600 per student. In-kind contributions such as the use of public school classrooms, equipment, etc. will assist in the overall budget for the kindergarten transition programs.

Total program cost

Direct Cost = 300 students @ approximately \$600/student (FTF Funds)	= \$ 180,000
Indirect Cost	= \$ 18,000
<u>In kind Contributions = approximately 34% of the program cost</u>	<u>= \$ 102,000</u>
Total Program Cost	= \$ 300,000

Strategy Name: Workforce Recruitment-Stipends and Loan Forgiveness (Recruitment of Early Intervention Professionals)			
<p>Purpose: To recruit and retain early intervention professionals for the Coconino Region in order to expand early intervention services to children birth to five.</p> <p>Throughout Arizona, there is a critical shortage of therapists with the necessary education and experience to appropriately address the needs of young children, during a time when effective intervention can have the greatest impact. This shortage is evident in the Coconino Region. Many families in the region have to travel to Flagstaff to receive services, or wait for extended periods of time before a contracted specialist (certified to work with children birth to age five) is available to come to their communities. The 2010 Coconino Region Needs and Assets Report showed that all community hubs except Flagstaff are classified by the AZ Department of Health Services as health professional shortage areas and medically underserved areas.</p> <p>This strategy is intended to provide an incentive through stipends and/or loan repayment for therapists to live and work in the communities of the Coconino Region, specifically serving children birth to age five. Speech and Language Pathologists, Psychologists, Physical and Occupational Therapists and Mental Health Specialists are eligible for this incentive. The Coconino Regional Partnership Council has identified a lack of early interventionists as a significant need due to the number of children identified with developmental delays within the region, the lack of available services for those children, and the extensive distances families must travel in order to receive those services.</p> <p>The recruitment and retention incentive plan requires a service obligation by therapists of two years living in and serving the Coconino Regional area.</p>			
<p>Lead Goal: FTF will advocate for timely and adequate services for children identified through early screening.</p> <p>Goal: FTF will build a skilled and well prepared early childhood workforce.</p>			
<p>Key Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number and percentage of professionals who work with young children, outside of early care and education, who hold a credential, certificate, or degree in early childhood development or other appropriate specialty area. 			
<p>Target Population: Professionals in the field of intervention such as Speech and Language, Child Psychology, Physical and Occupational Therapy and Mental Health Specialist to provide service across the Coconino Regional area.</p>			
Proposed Service Numbers	SFY2012 July 1, 2011 -June 30, 2012	SFY2013 July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013	SFY2014 July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014
	2 Specialists	2 Specialists	
<p>Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of providers of specialized services serving children birth through age five in the region 			

How is this strategy building on the service network that currently exists? This strategy builds on the current early intervention professionals currently serving the Coconino Region by increasing the number of Specialists in the region. This strategy would seek to improve the recruitment and retention of qualified therapists by providing an incentive package.	
What are the opportunities for collaboration and alignment? FTF and the Coconino Regional Partnership Council will collaborate with Arizona Department of Health Services and Arizona Early Intervention Program to identify and then utilize the services of two Specialists.	
SFY2010 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy	
Population-based Allocation for proposed strategy	\$140,000
Budget Justification: This incentive provides a loan forgiveness and stipend package in the amount of \$68,880 per Specialist to live and work in the Coconino Region with a commitment to stay in the Coconino area for two years. Administrative, recruitment, and indirect costs are included in the stipend.	
<u>Loan Repayment Reimbursement</u>	
For SLP/OT/Psychologist –	
Year 1 of service = \$ 10,000	
Year 2 of service = \$ 15,000	
Total =	\$25,000
For PT – or	
Year 1 of service = \$ 15,000	
Year 2 of service = \$ 20,000	
Total =	\$35,000
MH Specialist - or	
Year 1 of service = \$ 5,000	
Year 2 of service = \$ 7,500	
Total =	\$12,500
<u>Stipend (example)</u>	
Moving Expenses =	\$3,000
Conference Fees=	\$2,500
Licensure Fees=	\$ 250
Sign ON & Retention =	\$3,000
Year 1 service completion =	\$5,000
Year 2 service completion =	\$7,500
Total =	\$21,250
Total range (per Specialist) =	\$ 33,750 to \$ 56,250
Total for two Specialists =	\$ 67,500 to \$112,500
Indirect and Admin Costs (23%) =	\$ 15,525 to \$ 25,875
Total strategy cost =	\$ 83,025 to \$ 138,375